

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Cooperation with State and Federal Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 1945  
(Fourth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1945)

Cool, damp weather continues to retard cotton germination and growth in most areas. Stands are poor in many sections and considerable acreage has been replanted or planted to other crops. The prospects are for a late crop which is conducive to insect damage.

BOLL WEEVIL

There has been very little change in boll weevil conditions during the past week. Emergence from hibernation is heavy and weevils are abundant in fields for this time of year.

TEXAS: Square examinations were made in 173 fields in 10 southern counties; 11% of the fields had no punctured squares, 42% of the fields had less than 10% punctured squares; 32% of the fields had from 10 to 25% punctured squares; 10% of the fields had from 25 to 50% punctured squares; 5% of the fields had over 50% punctured squares. The highest infestations were found in Hidalgo County where the infestation averaged 25% in the 39 fields examined. Insecticides were being used in 40 of these fields, mostly in the lower Valley, but dusting had started in a few fields farther north.

Plants too small for squaring were examined in 144 fields in 19 counties and weevils were found at the average rate of about 150 per acre or approximately the same as last week. Weevils were especially abundant in Eastrop County.

Emergence from hibernation cages at Waco slowed up considerably during the week but more weevils have already emerged than for any recent year except 1941. Dr. F. L. Thomas of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station reports emergence to date at College Station is about 30% below average.

LOUISIANA: Emergence continued very heavy in the hibernation cages at Tallulah. Over 4.5% of the weevils have emerged to May 18 which nearly equals the emergence to this date in the bad weevil year of 1941. Stands are good in most fields planted during the first half of April but poor in many late-planted fields. A few fields have been chopped but weather has been unfavorable for farm work.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Cotton is suffering from the cool nights and cloudy days. Two hundred and nine weevils emerged from the hibernation cages through the third week of May as compared to 86 in 1944, 178 in 1943, 132 in 1942, and 2,335 in 1941. Weevil emergence into the fields continued heavy. In the 1/5-acre trap plot at Florence, 181 weevils have been collected to date as compared to 17 in 1944, 19 in 1943, 136 in 1942, and 3 in 1941.

MISSISSIPPI: No weevils have been found in the fields in the Delta. Last year weevils were found in 3 of the 26 fields examined during the third week of May.

(over)

### COTTON APHID

Aphid infestations did not increase to any extent during the week. In 226 fields examined in Texas, light infestations were present in 192 fields, medium infestations in 26 fields, and heavy infestations in only 4 fields. One heavily infested field was reported near Waco. In Louisiana and South Carolina aphids were present but infestations were light.

### COTTON FLEA HOPPER

Of the 322 fields examined in Texas, no flea hoppers were found in 129 fields; less than 10 flea hoppers per 100 terminal buds were found in 145 fields; and more than 10 flea hoppers per 100 terminals in 44 fields. Most of the heavier infestations were in the lower Valley although flea hoppers were found in injurious numbers in Refugio, San Patricio, Calhoun, Brooks, and Jim Wells Counties. Insecticides were being used in 26 fields. A few flea hoppers hatched from overwintering eggs in the hibernation cages at Waco during the week, but apparently emergence is about completed.

### PLANT BUGS

Very few plant bugs have moved into the cotton fields in the Salt River and Santa Cruz Valleys of Arizona but Lygus bugs continue to increase rapidly on alfalfa, sugar beets, and other hosts. Lygus nymphs were over three times as abundant on alfalfa and weeds as last week and several times more abundant than at this time last year. In Graham County, Ariz., the plant bug populations on grain, sugar beets, and alfalfa were low.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Thrip injury continued in a number of cotton fields adjacent to small grain near Florence, S. C. Cutting of grain usually causes an increase in thrips on cotton.

Grasshoppers were damaging cotton and poison bait was being used in Travis County, Texas and Pima County, Arizona.

Cutworms were reported causing damage to cotton following winter cover crops in northeastern South Carolina.

Prepared May 24, 1945.



